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September 11, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

EPFD responds to water rescue

Firefighters respond to water rescue at 800 San Marcial St.

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 1:41 a.m. on Friday Sept. 11, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to the 800 block of San Marcial when the Border Patrol called 911 about a person in the canal. The first unit arrived on the scene at 1:52 a.m. and firefighters were able to spot the person holding on to a rope being held by Border Patrol agents. The Water Rescue team was immediately dispatched.

The Water Rescue team was able to enter the water and rescue the male inside the canal at 2:16 a.m. The man was transported to an area hospital.

There were no injuries to fire personnel. A total of 6 units and 14 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police and the U.S. Border Patrol assisted in this incident.

The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public that canals are extremely dangerous and should be avoided. People often get swept away because they don't understand the mechanics of the water.

"The canal system is meant to move water quickly," Water Rescue Captain Kristian Menendez said. "At the surface the water appears to be moving slowly, but the center of the canal is the fastest moving part. Also many times many of the people who jump into the canal system believe that because the water is shallow they can make it across easily. The force of the water is such that it pushes you down stream and requires good swimming techniques."

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